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September 24, 1958

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

Mr. Leishman, British Embassy
Mr. Manet, French Embassy
Mr. Thon, For the Department

1) Late in the evening I informed Leishman and Manet that the Department had cleared the original working group texts with one amendment. The Department felt that paragraph 6 of the draft reply to the Soviet note of September 18 (relating to Soviet responsibility for reunification) could be considerably strengthened by inclusion of a ~~direct~~ quotation from the 1955 Directive of Heads of Government. The Department proposed therefore a revision of the 6th paragraph to read as follows:

"In the directive issued by the four Heads of Government at Geneva in 1955, the Soviet Government recognized its responsibility for the reunification of Germany. The directive provides inter alia: 'The Heads of Government, recognizing their common responsibility for the settlement of the German question and the reunification of Germany, have agreed that the settlement of the German question and the reunification of Germany by means of free elections shall be carried out in conformity with the national interests of the German people and the interests of European security.' The US Government cannot accept that the Soviet Government has the right unilaterally to evade this responsibility of this agreement. In accordance with their similar responsibilities, the US Government, etc., etc."

2) Leishman advised that he would cable this information immediately to London so that the UK Foreign Office could relay its position to Bonn to permit the agreed consultations to proceed on September 25. Manet saw no need to inform his Foreign Office until the following morning.

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